

VASIP Steering Committee Meeting Notes

April 17, 2007

Attending in Person: Christy Cacciapaglia, Jim Martinez, Bonnie Neighbour, Malcolm King, Jim Evans, Mellie Randall, Arnold Woodruff, Will Ferriss, Sterling Deal, Will Williams, Janet Davis, Sharon Ekelberry, Martha Kurgans, Margaret Anne Lane, Laurie Rokutani, Ken Batten, Rhonda Thissen, Jason Lowe

Participating by Phone: Stephanie Savage, Caroline Schleifer

Meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Update on Recent VASIP/COSIG activities

- Minkoff and Cline activities during March 7-9 visit:

Sharon Ekleberry provided information on Dr. Minkoff's consultation session with Region 2 on March 7. At that consultation, the regional partners shared with him the status of the members' participation in VASIP activities (COMPASS completed, waiting on analysis, steering and implementation committees in place) and how they are ready to gear up for the change agent process.

Sterling Deal updated the Committee about a meeting with the Commissioner, Frank Tetrick, Dr. Minkoff, Dr. Cline and members of the VASIP team on March 8. The theme of the meeting was continued exploration of how service integration fits with larger system transformation efforts. Lots of ideas came out of the meeting concerning resources now available as a result of VASIP efforts.

Will Ferriss provided an update about Dr. Cline's meeting with the VACSB leadership forum on March 9. Will indicated that the members were positive about the VASIP efforts, but upon reviewing the minutes from the March 8 Committee meeting and the Committee's membership list, they were concerned about the Committee providing guidance to the CSBs when it lacked CSB representation. They recommended having one person represent each of the seven regions on the Steering Committee. Ken Batten felt that if they raised the issue of increased CSB representation, then the onus is on them to help facilitate that increased representation. Discussion turned to the last Steering Committee meeting, when Dr. Minkoff was encouraging the Committee to take the lead in overall transformation efforts, and how the Committee views its possible role in defining transformation. Extended conversation ensued concerning the place of the Committee in the larger efforts of the department.

Rhonda Thissen asked for some clarification on the feeling of the members concerning whether they wanted to focus just on VASIP efforts or if we want to have a broader scope (i.e., transformation in general). The consensus among the members present was that if this group takes on the overall transformation effort, then the specific focus on VASIP will get lost in the process. The challenge, then, is how to integrate transformation-related activities while keeping the major focus on VASIP and co-occurring disorders. Will Williams once again reiterated his concern that we still don't have a firm definition

of what “Transformation” really means. Sharon clarified that there were no dissenting voices against the repeated feelings that this group should be primarily about VASIP. Sharon then asked that if we know our focus, how do we identify ways to move forward. Rhonda proposed that members provide a list of different groups and committees that they serve on so that the Steering Committee can inform itself about the different contacts it has access to that provide more ways to spread the message. Rhonda asked if any Department members had ideas about Commissioner-level conversations that have taken place concerning transformation efforts. Jim Martinez and Jim Evans both indicated that conversations around transformation aren’t specifically held, but that they come up in terms of different projects and efforts that are taking place.

Action items: Sterling and Rhonda will provide the Committee members with another copy of the VASIP/COSIG Charter, and it will be used to help direct efforts of determining what the next steps will be for this committee.

- **Workforce survey**

Rhonda updated on the survey. Drs. Minkoff and Cline have reviewed the instrument and made suggestions for changes. Jason updated on potential plans to use Survey Monkey, a Web-based service, for online administration of the instrument. Plans are to perform online surveying first, and based on response level, possibly roll out a hard copy version as well.

- **Transformation Conference Planning**

Mellie Randall updated the Committee on Transformation Conference planning efforts, including overall contents and themes. Laurie Rokutani also mentioned a meeting to be held on May 22 to help develop workshops, and they are looking for broad representation at this meeting, so she invited all members as well as other people they know who may be interested.

- **Reports from Subcommittees**

Sterling provided the Committee with an update on discussions held during a joint conference call meeting of the Membership and Architecture of Transformation subcommittees that took place on March 1. This was the first meeting of both subcommittees. Jason updated on the VASIP website, which should be live and ready by the end of the week. The Professional Training and System Development (PTSD) Subcommittee and its activities also were discussed, including upcoming meeting times.

The Committee discussed the frequency of full meetings and decided that meeting bimonthly, with subcommittee meetings in the interim months, was the best option. The next full Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, at 10 a.m. at the VACSB offices. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Recorded by Jason Lowe